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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,492	09/11/2001	David John Hollick	B&H011US5487	7155

7590 10/17/2002

Marguerite Gerstner  
Tyco Electronics Corporation  
307 Constitution Drive MS R20 2B  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-1164

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/936,492

Applicant(s)

HOLLICK, DAVID JOHN

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendment filed August 5, 2002 in which Claim 7 has been amended, has been place of record in the file as Paper No. 7.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, and 9-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462) in view of Lamome (U.S. Patent No. 5,422,438). With regard to Claims 1, 7, 13-14, 17 and 20-22, Auclair discloses an electrical connector (10) comprising a connector body (20) including a tubular socket (22) configured to receive an electrical conductor (14), clamping means (40) arranged to secure the electrical conductor (14) within the socket (22), and a socket insert fitting (12) within the tubular socket (22) so as to reduce the effective size of the socket (22), the clamping means (40) comprising at least one clamping bolt (44) held in respective

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threaded bores in the connector body (20) such that the at least one clamping bolt (44) extends into the socket (22) so as to clamp, via the socket insert (12). See Figs. 1-7.

Auclair doesn't show the socket insert being tubular and being adapted to be deformed by the clamping means into retaining engagement with the electrical conductor, wherein the electrical conductor is received within the tubular socket insert to position the socket insert between the clamping member and the electrical connector and between an opposing surface of the socket relative to the clamping member and the electrical conductor.

Lamome discloses a connector defining a socket (4) and having a socket insert (3) being tubular and being adapted to be deformed by the clamping means (arrows, Fig. 2) into retaining engagement with the electrical conductor (9), wherein the electrical conductor (9) is received within the tubular socket insert (3). See Figs. 1-2.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Auclair by changing the socket insert to a tubular socket insert adapted to be deformed by the clamping means into retaining engagement with the electrical conductor, wherein the electrical conductor is received within the tubular socket insert as taught in Lamome to help strengthen the connection formed between conductors, preventing them from slipping.

With regard to Claims 2, 10 and 19, the combination of Auclair and Lamome discloses the claimed invention except the socket insert being aluminum.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the socket insert of aluminum, since it has been held to be

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within the general ordinary skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

With regard to Claims 3-4, 9, 11, 15-16, and 23, Lamome discloses the socket insert (3) having a corrugated profile (formed by 8). See Figs. 1-2.

With regard to Claims 5, 12, and 18, Lamome discloses an internal surface of the tubular socket insert (3) having tooth-like formations (8). See Figs. 1-2

With regard to Claim 6, Auclair discloses the socket (22) being a bore of substantially circular cross-section. See Figs. 1-7.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462) in view of Lamome (U.S. Patent No. 5,422,438) and Polidori (U.S. Patent No. 5,320,565). The combination of Auclair and Lamome discloses the claimed invention except at least one clamping bolt including a shearable head that shears off when a torque applied to the shearable head exceeds a predetermined value.

Polidori discloses a connector (10) having at least one clamping bolt (46) including a shearable head (45) that shears off when a torque applied to the shearable head (45) exceeds a predetermined value. See Fig. 4 and Column <sup>4, lines</sup> 38-47.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Auclair and Lamome by including at least one clamping bolt including a shearable head that shears off when a torque applied to the shearable head exceeds a predetermined value as taught in Pranch to prevent over torquing.

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***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Edwin A. Leon  
AU 2833

EAL  
October 2, 2002



**THO D. TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**